



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

January 8, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

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Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO ENABLE LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO COMPETE FOR LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS (ITEM NO. 2, AGENDA OF JANUARY 13, 2004)**

Item No. 2 on the January 13, 2004 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Burke to assist in seeking approval of legislative proposals that would enable Los Angeles County to compete directly for Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. LIHEAP was established in 1981 to provide services to low income people needing energy assistance.

The Department of Community and Senior Services (DCSS) indicates that Federal legislation, which created and reauthorized LIHEAP, encouraged awarding these funds to agencies that administer Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds and have administered energy programs in the past. DCSS, as the County's designated Community Action Agency (CAA), is responsible for administration of CSBG funds and previously administered LIHEAP funds within the County. However, the State Department of Community Services and Development, which administers the LIHEAP program in California, interprets existing law enacted in 1997 to preclude DCSS, and other CAAs within the County, from competing for LIHEAP funds.

Three other CAAs in Los Angeles County are also seeking to compete for LIHEAP funds: the Community Development Department of the City of Los Angeles, the Long Beach Community Action Partnership, and the Center for Community and Family Services, which serves the Pasadena/Foothill area. DCSS indicates that the City of Los Angeles intends to sponsor legislation to amend existing law for this purpose.

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Currently, four community organizations receive, on a non-competitive basis, approximately \$16.7 million in LIHEAP funds to administer the program throughout Los Angeles County. DCSS indicates that these organizations are not subject to the public input and scrutiny required of CAAs, resulting in some areas of the County being underserved.

County CAAs have the capacity through the existing CSBG network to provide outreach and consumer education to our low-income, vulnerable and elderly population in the underserved areas. **Therefore, DCSS recommends that the County support legislation to enable Los Angeles County Community Action Agencies to compete directly for Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds, and we concur.** This action is consistent with existing County legislative policy to support proposals that would increase access to funding under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Los Angeles County.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:MS:hg/n

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Department of Community and Senior Services